

Our resident historian, G. K. BUTTERFIELD, who served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, worked as a civil rights lawyer, a trial judge, a superior court judge, and served in the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Retired teacher and distinguished professor, DAVID PRICE, led numerous congressional missions abroad during his three decades on the Hill, and he has been influential in his committee work on the Appropriations Committee.

Both have been personal mentors and friends to me, and impactful advisers who I will truly miss.

I thank Congressman PRICE and Congressman BUTTERFIELD for their friendship and for their service. I wish them and their families Godspeed as they retire and take on the next chapter in their lives.

God bless you. Please know that our Nation is much better off, and you have certainly made it much better than you found it. God bless you.

HONORING MAYOR JACKIE CRABTREE ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a pillar of the Third District of Arkansas, lifelong Arkansan, and exemplary public servant, Mayor Jackie Crabtree of Pea Ridge.

As a former mayor myself, I have high standards for those in this position. I can say with certainty, Jackie has been a very distinguished leader. Few can remember a time in Pea Ridge when Jackie wasn't the mayor.

To love, to serve, and to promote Pea Ridge have been the pillars of his service. There is no growth project or improvement of consequence that has happened in the last quarter century that doesn't have the fingerprints of Jackie Crabtree all of over them.

From new sidewalks, parks, sewer infrastructure, to city buildings, walking trails, water lines, his vision has transformed the city.

He also led many firsts. He was the first full-time mayor, he brought in the first full-time fire and paramedic departments. He even started the Christmas tree lighting and decorations in downtown, to name a few. Those examples only scratch the surface of Jackie's accomplishments.

To me, there is no greater illustration of his success than the thousands of new residents who have flocked to Pea Ridge. It is a vibrant destination, one where people want to live, work, and raise their families.

I congratulate Jackie on a terrific career and life of service to his community. His hard work has been instrumental in building a better future.

While I know his high school sweetheart and wife, Freida, son, Eric, and granddaughters will enjoy the extra

time he will have for them, know that his leadership will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome my friend to the former mayor's club. Congratulations, Jackie.

HONORING SHERIFF TIM HELDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted protector of the people of Arkansas, and a man I am blessed to know as a friend, Washington County Sheriff Tim Helder.

For nearly four decades, he has nobly worn the badge. His heart for service is core to his character; it could even be argued it is in his blood. That point is only further reiterated by the fact that both his father and grandfather also wore the uniform, and I know they would be proud.

It is poignant that his law enforcement career is beginning and ending at the Washington County Sheriff's Office. After starting as a dispatcher, he attended the police academy, went on to work for the Fayetteville Police Department where he climbed the ranks.

After 21 years in Fayetteville, he returned to the sheriff's office and holds the honor of being the longest serving sheriff in its history.

On a personal note, I will miss the sheriff breakfasts that he would host for the community as a time to catch up and build trust. I hope that tradition will be carried on.

When reflecting on his career, I could list his many accomplishments or accolades or the names of the men and women he has helped lead, but I want to read the creed on his challenge coin, it sums it up:

I pledge before God and my community to faithfully perform my duties with integrity, professionalism, respect and fairness. I will bring a good attitude to work and take responsibility for all of my actions. I will have the courage to do the right thing for the right reasons without exception.

More than just words. That is how Sheriff Helder has lived his life. The Third District is safer and stronger because of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his principled integrity, and I wish him a blessed retirement.

REQUESTING OPEN AND STRUCTURED DEBATE ON JUST WAR PRINCIPLES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. Res. 1009 in March of this year. This resolution states that it is the sense of the House that the House should debate five of the six commonly accepted principles of the Just War theory to declaring war or authorizing military force.

The other Just War principle is that wars should be authorized by the Nation's legitimate body, which in this case is the House of Representatives.

The reasoning behind H. Res. 1009 is as follows:

One, the U.S. House of Representatives shares the constitutional responsibility to declare war and authorize military force with the United States Senate (Article I, Section 8, Clause 11), but the House has traditionally been the body responsible to declare war or authorize military force.

Two, war and military action will always cause injuries, death, destruction, loss of property, famine, displacements, and other hardships. Because of these privations, military authorizations should only be undertaken with sufficient justification.

Three, weapons of mass destruction are possessed by a substantial and growing number of nations. These weapons may be capable of exterminating humanity.

Four, any conflict has the potential to expand beyond the original intent of the belligerent nations.

Five, the Just War theory of what constitutes the moral justification for a nation to engage in war has been developed over the past two millennia.

Six, some of the Just War principles are incorporated into the United Nations charter, but this has not prevented the many wars that have taken place since the United Nations was established. No nation in recent history has incorporated the principles of Just War theory into its own governing laws or traditions.

Seven, in the United States, an open and transparent debate of the Just War principles would give lawmakers in the United States House of Representatives a structured framework to examine if a call to conflict would be morally justified and may prevent our Nation from entering conflicts that may be harmful to our Nation's interests.

Eight, it is possible that debating the Just War principles in the U.S. House of Representatives before authorizing military force would have kept the United States out of military conflicts in the past that have been harmful to our Nation's interests.

Nine, H. Res. 1009 does not require the U.S. House of Representatives to debate the Just War principles, but essentially recommends that it does so.

Ten, H. Res. 1009 does not limit executive authority, but it does help to ensure that the executive does not overreach.

Eleven, after discussions and inputs from Just War scholars, some improvements to H. Res. 1009 have been noted.

My intention with H. Res. 1009 is to introduce the idea of having an open and structured debate in the House of Representatives on the most serious and grave responsibility of our government, that of declaring war.

In our Nation's history, declarations of war have been done at the request of the President. Having an open and structured debate will lessen the opportunity for misuse of our Nation's military but should not impede our Nation's ability to react to defend our country.